RB23 a 7733

Bloody Nevvs from CHATTAM.

OR,

A True and Impartial Account of a most Barbarous Murther, committed upon the Body of a Widdow, and her Son.

On *Twelf-day* last past, by her pretended Sweet-heart, in a Copps, about half a Mile from *Becon-Hill*, within a mile of *Chattam*.

With the manner how this Murther (through the Providence of God) was Discovered by a Dog, that was with a Boy gathering of Sticks.

A Relation of his Apprehension, & what he confessed to the Iustice of Peace and some Ministers, in the Goal at *Canterbury*, where he is now in Durance.

Any man may be satisfied of the truth of this, at the Queens-head at Billinsgate, *at the Starr Inn upon* Fish-street-hill, *by the Kentish Carriers, and other Gentlemen lodgeing there.*

Printed for *George Smith*, 1675.

BL

BLOODY

News from

Chattam. &c.

WHere Luſt takes up our deſires, and Revenge and Murther ſeizeth on our reſolutions, it is the true way to make us wretched in this life, and our ſouls miſerable in that to come; For if Chaſtity and Charity, (the two precious vertues and Ornaments of a Chriſtian) ſteer not our actions on Earth; how ſhall, nay, how can he arrive

to the Harbour of Heaven; or if we abandon thoſe celeſtial vertues to follow and imbrace thoſe Infernal vices, what do we but take our ſelves from felicity to miſery, and conſequently give our ſelves from God to Satan; but did we ſeriouſly (and truly) conſider that there is a Heaven to Reward the Righteous; and a Hell to puniſh the ungodly? We would neither defile our hearts, and polute our ſouls with the thoughts, much leſs with the actions of ſuch beaſtly and inhumane crimes: but in this ſinful age of ours, there is two many laſcivious and invious wretches, who make it their buſineſs to debauch themſelves and others. Among whom I here repreſent unto you a fad, but true Hiſtory: (*It's Bloody, and therefore mournful*) But if we deteſt the crime, we need not fear the puniſhment, for God is as gracious and propitious to protect the innocent, as Juſt and Severe to chaſtiſe the guilty.

In the Town of *Chattam* in the County of *Kent* lately Lived one ——— *Rattle*, a laſcivious debaucht Young-man, being much adicted to company-keeping, having thereby waſted almoſt all his portion; begins to take into conſideration how he might raiſe his fortune, and redeem his credit: Firſt, reforms his life; and having put on a civil garb, and Nature haveing endewed him with wit and comlineſs, he reſolves to ſeek after a Yoke-fellow, and ſuch a one as might help him in this low eſtate which he had brought himſelf into. He informs his friends of his intenti-

ons to marry; Who inform'd him of a Person living near him, that had they were sure enough to supply his present occasions, (and would no doubt if he pleased to make his mind known unto her) be willing to accept of him. He having this incouragement resolves to give this person a visit, and that upon the next day, which he thought long e're it came; Now the Morning being come he puts his resolution into practice; Being come into her presence, and having fixt his eye upon her, saw she was worthy to be beloved, and proceeds to make his mind known unto her, and seek her for his Wife, by his own solicitations, promises, attain'd her good will to marry her, but not without sighs, tears, and Prayers, and Oaths; and by these false hypocritical tears and promises he gets the good will of this poor Widdow, being the mother of two Children, and them both living, the one at Nurse, the other at home with her about six or seven years old; and now having got her good will for which he came, he doth proceed to confirm the business, and that by telling her what she desired to know, viz. What he had, and in what way he was to live, and whether able to maintain she and her two Children in case she should grant him her good will: He knowing that he could not if he spoke the truth give her full satisfaction; Therefore as he now saith, he resolved to turn the best side outwards, and to tell her that he had a considerable living neer *Canterbury* which was morgaged, but if she had

had but ſo much money that would redeem it, then it would be worth ſo much a year, and that would be enough to maintain them, and if ſhe had not ſo much, he did not doubt but he could borrow ſo much, and if ſhe pleaſed but to go along with him he would ſhew her what it was, and the Writings, ſhe gave credit to him, thinking his heart had been like his words, gave conſent to go along with him, and not onely to ſee what he tould her he had there, but alſo to ſee his Friends, which dwelt there, he being born at *Faulſton*: now the time being come that ſhe was, according to promiſe to go along with him, in order thereunto ſhe took Cloaths with her, and alſo her ſon, having none at home to leave him with, and with what Money ſhe had, ſhe goes with him, not thinking that her journey had been ſo ſhort as it proved to be: for they were not gone above a Mile, or their abouts, but he conſidered with himſelf, what he ſhould do in caſe he ſhould have her to the place he had told her, it being but a falſe and a meer forged ſtory, that he had made to delude her, and being now in abundance of care and trouble, the Devil that Old Serpent, that lies in wait to devour, quickly laid hold of this Opportunity, and having ſtrong hold, and good footing before, intends to bring this his ſervant into his own boſome, that had ſo long and faithfully ſerved him: tells him that his beſt and onely way was, if he could, to get her to be kind to him before hand: this bait of the Devils was very pleaſing to him: he there puts it into practice, and finding a convenient paſſage out of the

Rode-

Rode-way, into a Copps or Wood; he intreats her to go with him: she readily follows him, like a poor innocent Lamb: where being come into a secret place, he desires one favour of her, and that was, that since they were both agreed, she would be pleased to let him injoy some neerer familiarity then had formerly been between them, which she refused, being always vertuously inclined: he finding he could not prevail in this, readily hearkened to what the Devil had before Insinuated: Who advised him to Kill her and her child, and told him that the place was so secret that he would never be found out, and thereupon he is willing to try this unhumane Tragedy: which he acted thus: he finding no way to bring his business about to the obteyning his will of her, was the more incensed against her, and thereupon Draws his Knife, and Cutts her Throat, in several Ghastly formes, and then acts worse then a Beast, takes his will of her when she could not help her self, before she was quite Dead, as he hath since related to the Goal-Keeper of *Canterbury*, Mr. *Henry Landman*: and having performed this unnatural act, he takes what Money she had, and seeks after the little Boy, who in this time of their Discourse, was rambled a little way off, further into the Copps, not minding what they did: He having found him, cuts his throat, and so flyes to *Dover*, intending to pass over to *France*; about ten Days after comes to the Wood a poor boy to gather sticks, and with him was a Dog, and while the boy was busie a seeking fireing, the Dog was busie in

running

running up and down; and as God had appointed this Dog was the first that revealed this horrid murther; who when he had found would not wag from thence, but howled more and more till that the boy came to him, and no sooner was he come but he was frighted almost out of his wits, and in this manner runs as fast as his Legs could carry him home to acquaint the town, which he quickly did, and many with speed as the boy directed them, went to see, where they quickly found it to be too true; and that which troubled them most, that it was one of their Neighbours that had lived civily and honestly with them many years; they quickly send Hue and cry after him, and take him at *Dover*; and after examination by a Justice of Peace, was committed to *Canterbury* Goal; Where several Ministers hath been with him, but as yet find him very little concerned, notwithstanding his acknowledging of his own guilt, but we must leave him to the mercy of the Jury, and to the Justice of God.

FINIS.